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CITY PAGES ONLINE www.citypages.com

OFFICE HOURS Monday-Friday
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

ISSN 0744-0456. City Pages is published weekly by Star Tribune Media Company, LLC. City Pages is located at 650 3rd Ave. S., Ste. 1300, Minneapolis, MN 55488. City Pages is available free of charge, limited to one copy per reader. Additional copies of the current issue may be purchased at the City Pages office for \$1, payable in advance. No person may, without prior written permission of City Pages, take more than one copy of each City Pages weekly issue. Subscriptions are available for \$100 per year. Subscription orders must include check or money order payable to City Pages, and should be mailed to City Pages Subscriptions, 650 3rd Ave. S., Ste. 1300, Minneapolis, MN 55488. Periodicals postage paid at Minneapolis, Minnesota. Postmaster: Send address changes to City Pages, 650 3rd Ave. S., Ste. 1300, Minneapolis, MN 55488.

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THE SHORTLIST

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TONY NELSON

THE STAT SHEET

49

Homicides in Minneapolis as of Tuesday, pushing 2020's total past that for all of 2019

85%

Voters who think George Floyd's murder signals broader problems in Minneapolis police department

30,000

Poll workers required to work an election in Minnesota

24.9%

Portion of those hospitalized for COVID-19 in MN who are Black, despite making up 6.8% of the population

**“And who cares about you?
Fuck off. Get a real job.”**

— Reader Dan Horvat responds to “How DARE anyone require me to have an opinion about Eric Clapton 2 full decades into the 21st century”

ILHAN OH MY

TO CALL ILHAN OMAR'S victory over primary challenger Antone Melton-Meaux “decisive” would be a bit of an understatement. Omar took home 58 percent of the Fifth Congressional District vote to Melton-Meaux's 39 in last week's primary, in a race in which Melton-Meaux waged an aggressive sign and mailer campaign. (At least maybe it did something for the USPS?) In Minnpost, Gabe Schneider and Greta Kaul note that the win echoes the 2006 win of her predecessor, current Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison. In an increasingly energized and activist Minneapolis, suburban voters just can't topple the progressive candidate.

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Minnetonka schools head: **'COVID** is spreading outside of schools'

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COP SLOP

Protesters vandalized the crap out of a Minneapolis police precinct

The Minneapolis Police Department's Fifth Precinct building, situated on the corner of 31st and Nicollet in Lyndale, was thoroughly vandalized Saturday night.

Photos of the aftermath show windows and sidewalks spattered with black and red paint, surrounded by spray-painted slogans in blue and black: "ACAB," "FUCK KKKOPS," "PIG STY," and "BLOOD ON YOUR HANDS," and, simply, "FUCK ALL OF YOU."

A large message printed in block lettering on a side window reads "BOB KKKROLL," referring to Minneapolis police union head Bob Kroll, who vowed to go to bat for the MPD officers implicated in George Floyd's murder. Earlier that day, more than 100 Black Lives Matter protesters had rallied outside his home in Hugo, demanding both he and his wife, WCCO reporter Liz Collins, be fired from their respective jobs.

Police spokesperson John Elder told the Star Tribune that somewhere between 50 and 60 people marched to the precinct that night, around 10 p.m. Things started out peaceful, but then, Elder said, the protesters started throwing rocks and paint at the building's exterior and cameras.

Responding officers were reportedly shot at with fireworks. Elder said nobody was injured, and the protesters fled before backup could arrive.

A statement from Minneapolis Police Chief Medaria Arrardondo said that the "individuals" responsible were "hijacking peaceful protests" with "unlawful and destructive behavior" and would be prosecuted.

"This unlawful and senseless behavior will not be tolerated," it said. "Acts such as these do absolutely nothing to constructively engage and activate true and real needed reforms.... To all those engaging in peaceful first amendment protected speech and assembly, thank you."

The Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association (the statewide police union) weighed in on the mess the next day on Twitter, sharing photos and stating, "I'm tired of being nice and politically correct to people who destroy, burn and loot. These are not rational people and only want destruction."

Plenty of commenters agreed, while others pointed out that "more outrage over spray paint than murder" wasn't exactly helping the image of the department or the police in general in light of recent events.

A poll commissioned by MPR News, the Star Tribune, and KARE 11 found that only around a quarter of the city's residents actually had a favorable opinion of the department.

Seventy-three percent said some of the department's funding should be going to social services like mental health and addiction programs instead. Some specifically expressed frustration with the department's seeming inability to root



TWITTER

out cops who behave badly.

Just last week, an arbitrator ruled that Mark Bohnsack, the former Minneapolis officer fired for racist Christmas tree decorations in 2018, should be reinstated on the force, following 320 hours of unpaid suspension.

Survey respondents were mixed on the idea of reducing the size of the police department, with 40 percent of the 800 registered voters surveyed in favor, and 44 percent opposed. Nearly half thought a smaller police force would have a negative effect on public safety. —HANNAH JONES

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I. The Minority Tax

The civil unrest that engulfed blocks of south Minneapolis after the killing of George Floyd spilled down Lake Street as far west as Calhoun Commons, a strip mall near the city's border with St. Louis Park. Businesses in that pocket of the western shore of Bde Maka Ska had their windows smashed.

Just two miles away, in St. Louis Park, was Benilde-St. Margaret's, a private Catholic School whose Black students were watching the destruction with mounting anxiety.

For several days, students waited for the school to say something. In the wake of Floyd's death, institutions and corporations raced to denounce police brutality and systemic racism. Minneapolis Public Schools canceled its \$1.1 million contract with the Minneapolis Police Department. And even though it was summer break, individual teachers emailed their students to lend a caring ear. Benilde-St. Margaret's, however, was very quiet.

About a week later, the school posted an Instagram picture of one of its Black graduates, Noah Layton, of the class of 2020. He's standing at a lectern in a red and black graduation gown, looking starry-eyed, as if gazing off into a promising future. His portrait is overlaid with the prayer, "We give you thanks for the spirit of peace that calms our mind and stills our life."

Whatever point Benilde meant to make with the photo was lost on its subject. "This is gross," Layton wrote on his own Instagram. "For me to be used in a post like this, without even addressing the issues in our own city, without asking if they can use my picture, is tone deaf."

Layton had long been a quiet critic of the school's tendency to pose Black kids as props in advertisements that were far more diverse than the overwhelmingly white student body. Being tokenized for stock images was such a common annoyance among students of color that when a small group organized a food drive on campus following the riots, they preemptively insisted the school not photograph them for self-promoting social media.

The use of his image was the least of Layton's concerns. After years of withholding his true feelings about what it was like to be Black at Benilde St.-Margaret's, this was the last straw.

"I went to BSM knowing it was a means to an end," he continued on Instagram. "To get a good education I had to endure four years of uncomfortable conversations with classmates, watching gross treatment of my fellow students of color, and empty comments from administration."

Black at Benilde

Black students from one of the Twin Cities' most elite private schools recommend families of color enroll elsewhere

BY SUSAN DU



Cristina Marier

SUSAN DU

Layton was referring to a slew of tribulations that minorities endured at the school—implicit exclusion, explicit mockery, dehumanizing curricula, and preferential discipline. Besides the glaring racial scandals that rocked the school some years, the routine, everyday alienation of students who failed to fit the standard mold was often passive-aggressive, plausibly deniable, and difficult to codify. His post was an attempt to start unraveling those experiences.

In response, Black alumni created an Instagram called BlackatBenilde, a catalog of anecdotes anonymously submitted by students past and present. They detailed prolific use of the N-word, white theater students donning brownface to portray people of color in musicals like *West Side*

Story and *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, and classes in which students practiced rhetorical strategies by debating the pros and cons of gay marriage, interracial adoption, slavery, and ethnic cleansing, as if these subjects had only theoretical significance to students.

Some of the stories were hyper-specific, occasionally sparking long discussion threads among others who'd witnessed the same events from different angles.

A *Queer at Benilde* page soon followed, detailing the oft-hostile experiences of LGBT students in a school that censors coming-out stories from the Knight Errant student newspaper, which City Pages covered in 2010.

Other "Blackat" Instagram pages were created for the Twin Cities private schools

Blake and Breck. Often mentioned in the same breath as Benilde, they charge more than \$30,000 per student annually, and would also be considered "racially isolated" under state law if the term applied to white schools.

All three private schools made public declarations acknowledging their students' outpouring of stories. They laid out plans to improve the schools' climates.

In early June, Benilde-St. Margaret's President Adam Ehrmantraut wrote, "Clearly, our society has been steeped in crushing, race-based discrimination for centuries, and schools must be places of progress. Make no mistake, black lives do matter.... The personal messages outlining specific experiences go to my very soul, and have sparked an honest reassessment

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of what we are doing and what we need to do better.”

Layton is heading to New York’s Columbia University this fall. In high school he was involved with varsity football, basketball, speech, and a capella. Benilde was a small pond that presented opportunities for him to be as big a fish as he wanted.

Yet as a captain on the football team his senior year, underclassmen subordinates stared at him blankly when he told them to pick up after themselves in the locker room, only obeying when white co-captains gave the same order.

Among many Black alumni, there’s a growing belief that Benilde-St. Margaret’s is no school for their children, nor any children in search of a worldly education. Layton wouldn’t recommend it.

“There’s that minority tax you have to pay in certain places like that,” he says. “It’s a good opportunity academically and athletically, but there are just certain things you have to be wary of, that will happen when you go there.”

II. House of Glass

Benilde St.-Margaret’s is a combined junior and senior high of about 1,100 students, an amalgamation of what used to be separate boys’ and girls’ Catholic schools. Full tuition costs about \$15,000 per year, making it far more affordable than Blake and Breck, and academically speaking, one of the best returns on investment in private education.

Nevertheless, the student body’s affluence is a world removed from the hard-knock reality of neighboring Minneapolis Public Schools. Each morning at Benilde, the parking lot fills with Jeeps, Mercedes, and other luxury cars. Every student is handed a Mac laptop, theirs to take home and use for the duration of the school year.

And while most Catholic schools mandate uniforms, Benilde St.-Margaret’s does not. The brands worn in the hallways are another status symbol by which students stratify themselves into a hierarchy. In some past years everyone wore preppy clothes, and looked like J. Crew models. When fashion trended casual, they’d shell out for Lululemon leggings and Nike Air Force 1s.

Since 2000, Benilde has undergone aggressive capital campaigns to renovate the school. Parents and alumni, many of whom donate thousands of dollars each year on top of tuition, raised \$30 million for a new junior high and a palatial athletic complex including an artificial turf stadium, gatehouse, racetrack, and baseball fields. Recently, they gave \$8 million to construct three ultra-modern science labs and a performing arts amphitheater.

This year, the school was also approved for a loan up to \$5 million from the federal Paycheck Protection Program, intended to



EMILY UTNE

help small businesses weather the COVID-19 economic downturn.

Teachers are non-unionized, at-will employees. None of the school’s current educators are Black, although some Black staff are employed in maintenance, traffic control, and “diversity.”

According to graduates from the 1990s, some things have changed. Some things have not.

Togba Norris, an actor working in New York who graduated in the class of 1993, lived in north Minneapolis while attending Benilde.

His family immigrated from Liberia, initially settling in Hopkins at a time when there was very little diversity in that suburb, then moving to Minneapolis. Norris’s parents didn’t want him to grow up fearing people who looked like him. At the same time, Minneapolis was rough in the 1990s. Wary that trouble might find Norris in public school, they enrolled him at Ascension, a north Minneapolis Catholic K-8 school.

Norris says his parents scrimped and saved to afford Benilde’s tuition, working multiple jobs and taking out loans. He qualified for some financial assistance, and earned the remainder of his tuition cleaning classrooms for work study. As Norris boarded a bus back to North after school, he’d watch kids loading jet skis into their trucks to go down to the lakes. For families of modest means considering Benilde-St. Margaret’s, Norris says there’s

Tamera Chatham

a stunning level of privilege on parade.

“But going to Benilde—even though there was all of the emotional baggage and damage that came along with it—we as minorities, as immigrants, saw it as an opportunity for advancement that I wouldn’t be able to get in the Minneapolis Public School system,” he said.

He was educated in more ways than one. Benilde was where Norris started coming out of the closet at 17. Athletes checked him into lockers. He heard all the slurs, both racist and homophobic, said to his face.

One day he was invited to a friend’s house to rehearse for a school play. She’d been nervous about introducing him to her father, and Norris could tell by the older man’s body language that he wasn’t really welcome. The friend had mentioned Norris was gay ahead of the visit in order to defuse possible misunderstandings, but at one point in their conversation he joked about marrying her because she was such a nice person. The father got up and left the room. The next moment, the mother hurried out of the kitchen and ushered them out the door.

“I wanted to have a good impression of the years that I spent there,” Norris says. “It was my high school experience and everything, but it did have a way of destroying people’s self-esteem.”

Discovering the BlackatBenilde Instagram verified his own complicated feelings about the school, so he showed it to his friend Juliet Muller, another 1993 graduate who now lives in Chicago. The feed was a revelation that nearly 30 years after her own dismal experience at Benilde as a Korean adoptee of white parents, faculty and staff still haven’t created an environment where differences thrive.

Muller recalls one time in her freshman year, when she chatted with a group of students she didn’t know well in the cafeteria. When lunch ended and the group dispersed, someone gave her a pat on the back. She thought little of it until she discovered, later in the day, a piece of paper taped to her shirt. There were many words scrawled there, but she only remembers one: “Sumo.” She recalls the humiliation, as well as the isolating realization that plenty of students had seen her walking around and said nothing.

In AP English her senior year, Muller was picked to debate the positive side of interracial adoption while a white girl presented the perspective that children like her suffered from a deficient upbringing. Despite the teacher’s disclaimer that debate positions did not necessarily reflect anyone’s personal opinions, it was an agonizingly awkward experience.

Years later, Muller says Benilde was little more than a negative experience she learned to rise above.

“There are lots of kids out there that need to have a voice. It’s a tricky time because you’re upon adulthood, and yet I get that, ‘Is anybody listening to me?’ type of feeling. And I can see in these many students who have posted their stories that they’re not being heard,” Muller says.

“I can’t speak highly of Benilde, and I can’t recommend anybody send their child there because of my experience there, and what I understand continues to this day.”

III. Whiteout

The creator of the BlackatBenilde Instagram is Obasi Lewis, class of 2016. The first post is his own story.

As a junior in cross country, he was the only Black runner on his team. As their bus headed back to school one evening following a meet, students erupted in a song, repeating the N-word over and over.

It was a song from the 2007 “glockumentary” *Gangsta Rap*, which had recently resurged in a popular Vine. The movie was a parody, the song a call-and-response debate over use of the N-word in the Black community.

It was obvious to Lewis that none of his teammates—nor the adult coaches who remained silent—understood the

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complexity of that word's usage. For several surreal minutes he found himself stuck on a bus, surrounded by white kids chanting the N-word. He promptly quit the team, but didn't tell his parents about the incident because they would have removed him from the school, and he didn't want to start over somewhere else a year before graduation.

Recently Lewis's older sister has been considering private education for his niece. He recommended against Benilde-St. Margaret's, pointing to the manifold stories of indignity and condescension that poured into the BlackatBenilde Instagram after his.

In 2012, teenager Trayvon Martin was shot and killed by a neighborhood-watch vigilante in Florida, giving birth to the Black Lives Matter movement. Benilde alumni who spoke with City Pages recalled that after some students tried to coordinate a day for everyone to wear black in support, administration made a special announcement to shut it down. Later that fall, students counter-protesting Black Lives Matter got away with a "whiteout" in the student section of a football game, where kids wore white to express that "all lives matter," the usual refrain used to dismiss the numerous deadly encounters between unarmed Black people and American police.

Other football dress-up themes included "yacht club and trophy wives," and "finance bros and hoes."

BlackatBenilde anecdotes from recent years include "African American" cafeteria meals served during Black History Month featuring fried chicken and watermelon. Girls on the dance team, coordinating "flesh tone" tights, whispering about the dark-skinned Black girl throwing off their

face later in life, and issues that will come up in a college classroom."

Benilde St.-Margaret's President Adam Ehrmantraut responded to the BlackatBenilde Instagram promising to invite students, parents, and alumni to listening sessions on school culture, and reminding everyone to observe the school motto, "Let love be sincere." A month passed. The school released no further information.

"It was my high school experience and everything, but it did have a way of destroying people's self-esteem."

color scheme. Trucks bearing Confederate flags. Snapchats taken of people on service trips to north Minneapolis filled with monkey emojis.

"We want them to make actionable changes to the curriculum, to the culture, to the way they train their faculty and staff to respond to these incidents so that students have a better experience at BSM, specifically minority students, but really all students," Lewis says. "There are issues they might

Lewis emailed Ehrmantraut and Principal Susan Skinner, asking for an update, and offering the assistance of a large group of Black alumni.

"We believe that the proposed listening and engagement sessions discussed in your first public statement are an important first step in true allyship to students and alumni of color," he wrote. "If you would like to engage in a dialogue with us, please let us know of next steps."

A dozen former students signed their names.

Another month passed. Ehrmantraut and Skinner never responded.

Meanwhile, the two did reply to the emails of concerned alumni whose families donate large sums of money, promising to involve them in the listening sessions to come. These donors requested anonymity, for fear students currently enrolled at Benilde will face retaliation if they speak critically of the school.

Ehrmantraut's office agreed to, then pulled out of an interview with City Pages, saying he and Skinner needed to focus on developing protocols for reopening school in a COVID fall.

In an email, Ehrmantraut said Benilde had contracted with "a leading expert" to facilitate listening sessions in late August through October. Following these, the school will design a comprehensive plan to recruit and retain employees of color, improve school climate, and change the curriculum.

"As a community we strive to elevate student voices and offer an abundance of support and grace," he wrote. "At BSM, we espouse to welcome everyone as if they were Christ; our thoughts and actions must live up to those words."

He did not answer why families of color should choose Benilde-St. Margaret's, and declined to take further questions.

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EMILY UTNE



IV. "Let Love Be Sincere"

Obasi Lewis

Morgan Bettin-Coleman, a 2017 valedictorian, recalls that in her junior year, a white girl circulated a Snapchat photo of her white boyfriend with the strings of his hoodie cinched tight, captioned, "Hang the n—s." Many students celebrated its daring. For Bettin-Coleman, it was the moment the school's latent anti-Black atmosphere crossed into explicit white supremacy, something that had been passed down. She felt strongly that the administration should do something about it.

She and a fellow leader of the Black student organization visited Principal Skinner's office. They said that while they didn't expect to be told details of another student's discipline, the author of the Snapchat clearly had not been suspended from school nor barred from playing hockey games. She hadn't apologized, and as far as anyone could tell, suffered no consequences.

Bettin-Coleman says nothing came of the meeting because Skinner suddenly began to cry. Watching quietly, she felt confused, suspecting the tears were a performative act to engender sympathy.

In comments on the BlackatBenilde posts, and in rebuttals to Knight Errant coverage of the Black student experience, white students and alumni have occasionally argued that Benilde-St. Margaret's has

no culture problem because they themselves had a phenomenal time.

"That totally encompasses what it was like to be white at Benilde, to have no recognition of what students of color were going through," Bettin-Coleman says.

"I don't really see [the school] improving anytime soon. It doesn't seem like something they're seeking to do, especially because there are so many white students who are supportive of Benilde's environment that they will value that feedback more, and utilize it to maintain how they are."

Cristina Marier is a 2018 Benilde graduate who now attends Drake University, studying law, politics, and society.

She says shortly after President Donald Trump's election, white hockey players grouped near the doors of the cafeteria stopped her on the way in. One told her she wasn't allowed. Thinking it was no more than a bit of everyday bullying, she pushed through.

Later that lunch period, the hockey players' table started chanting, "Build the wall, build the wall!" Some Latino students at the next table stood up and ran out.

Afterward, administration said there would be workshops to address the outburst, but Marier never learned who was invited to participate and what happened.

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EMILY UTNE

Marier was born in Nicaragua, and spoke primarily Spanish up until the fourth grade. The language barrier caused her to fall behind in her Minneapolis middle school, so her parents enrolled her at BSM for high school to catch up.

She started in remedial classes—which were occupied almost entirely by other kids of color—and stayed in them even after she began to feel stultified and unchallenged. She asked to be transferred to a regular math class and was told there was no room.

Marier has two younger brothers. Neither attends Benilde-St. Margaret's because she was so unhappy there. Student social media channels teemed with racist memes, she says, and teachers told her to lower her dreams of attending law school and becoming an immigration lawyer. "I remember crying at school for legit a straight month, like something would happen every single day. At a certain point it just became too much. I didn't want to go to school."

Taylor Sudduth, also class of 2018, says Benilde's curriculum was woefully lacking in the history and literature of nonwhite Americans. To learn about her culture, she had to choose Black subjects for independent book reports and biography projects. Other students may have found her presentations tiring, but she considered them opportunities to remediate an otherwise Eurocentric education.

She says classmates inquired whether she received financial aid, and some teachers—the ones who avoided eye contact and spoke to her only to the extent they had to—were clearly tense around Black people.

The school also had a dress code that banned political clothing, Sudduth recalls. It didn't seem to apply to white students sporting Trump gear, yet teachers would repeatedly ask her throughout the day to

Noah Layton

lose her Black Lives Matter sweatshirt. She parried those orders, she says, because no one could ever rationalize why it was in violation, and she didn't want to be seen as someone who'd back down.

Back home, when her parents would ask about her day, she'd say she hated defending herself all the time and beg to be transferred somewhere else, like De La Salle, a Minneapolis Catholic school with a multicultural student body.

Her parents wanted her to tough it out. They viewed Benilde-St. Margaret's as preparation for a world of born privilege, bought influence, and doors that opened for the well-connected. In high school, she thought that was unfair. Now that she's older, she better understands their point of view, and feels that if she survived Benilde, she could survive anything.

Private schools aren't beholden to Gov. Tim Walz's COVID-19 orders. While Minneapolis Public Schools plan to start school online this fall with plans for gradual expansion of in-person classes, Benilde and other private schools will reopen right away, while offering an online option for families who don't want to chance catching the virus. These schools are reportedly seeing a spike in interest as public school parents weigh the risks and benefits of indefinite distance learning.

Sudduth cautions families of color to consider Benilde-St. Margaret's carefully.

She was a senior when Ehrmantraut became president of Benilde. One of the first things he did was have lunches with students to learn about school climate. She told him what it was like for her. He asked what he could do to help.

"From what I'm reading, that conversation kind of came and went, and nothing really happened with that," she says. ☐



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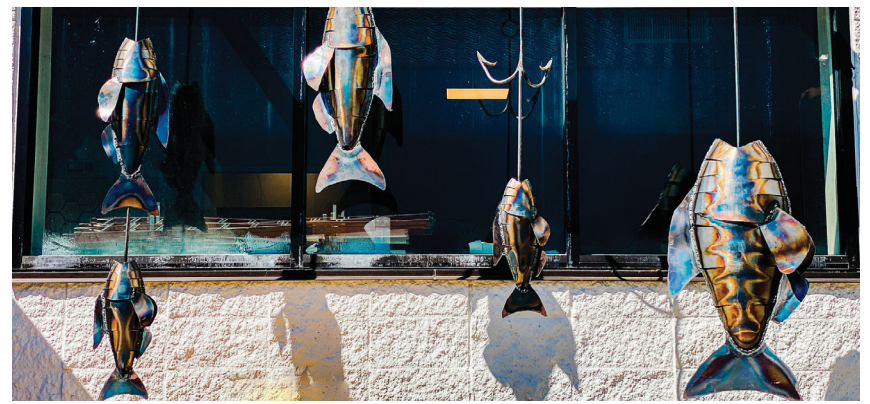
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FOOD



COURTESY COASTAL SEAFOODS

REAL BIG FISH

Coastal Seafoods upgrades its
Seward location, adds cafe

BY SARAH BRUMBLE

From fine dining icons Travail Kitchen and Amusements to local farms like Iron Shoe, establishments from all over the food spectrum have started serving marketplace-style offerings and pantry standards to bolster traditional favorites their communities first knew and loved. Thus far, these savvy pivots have proven instrumental in adapting to serve customers' wants and needs during the pandemic.

...Then we have some of the finest seafood specialists in Minneapolis, who have taken a page from this playbook and inverted it, in a most clever way.

As of this week, Coastal Seafoods has charted a course for its most bountiful waters yet. Since 1985, the fishmongers have been best known for air-lifting fresh tuna, bay scallops, eel, and cockles six days a week to a Bahamian blue market in Seward (and their St. Paul annex). But now they're breaking with tradition bigly by jettisoning that 800-square-foot Minneapolis location after so many years in favor of new digs.

For anyone caught unawares by the move, rest assured they'll still be able to find the upgraded version of Coastal without trouble: It's directly across the street from the old shop, right off the Greenway.

So why move at all? Well, imagine if Coastal traded in the old skiff for a yacht; it finally matches the top-tier product they've always sold. The space is nearly four times the size of the previous teal holdout, and while they're sticking to curbside service through the end of August, when September arrives, they'll begin allowing up to 10 customers at a

time inside the new digs to partake in the space's full possibilities.

Amenities are set to include the largest dedicated seafood counter in the state (they've been measuring, all ye pretenders to Triton's throne) alongside a modern gourmet foods market with cheese and charcuterie service, plus a bunker stocked with frozen and refrigerated goods. They've also got a dry goods section that rounds out pantries for those of you who get the squicks from squid.

Part of the increase in footprint also allows more room (and space between diners) at their cafe. Guests can dine in at the source of their snacks, with an option to belly up to an eat-in counter and see meals being prepared, or watch as, um, staff does to sea creatures what you dare not (or don't know how to do) in your own sinks.

Though education has always been an integral component to every visit to Coastal—staffed by knowledgeable and patient counterfolk ready and willing to explain what you just witnessed above, or what makes yellowfin different from yellowtail—the cafe affords Coastal's specialty classes room to breathe. Here, the outfit's pros have space and tools to teach curious students sushi basics, oyster shucking, and more, while opening the door to tour Spanish tapas or instructing lovers on proper seafood date night etiquette, too.

Turns out a lot more than fine fish can fit in a super-sized sloop!

Come aboard 2007 E. 24th St. in Minneapolis at your socially distanced leisure beginning August 31, or pick up any of Coastal Seafoods' legendary smoked delights, takeout items, and fresh catches via curbside service as of right now.

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GREAT GLOBAL GET-TOGETHER

Where to find State Fair eats in Minneapolis (no tickets required)

BY JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

The Minnesota State Fair isn't happening in 2020. Still, there are some workarounds scheduled this summer. Food vendors have popped up at various locations around town and the Fairgrounds is hosting a (super sold-out and kinda pricey) drive-thru food experience.

But for lovers of the eats and shops at the fair's International Bazaar, Midtown Global Market is giving you options with their Great Global Get-Together. The free event will be a daily happening, and is scheduled to run from Thursday, Aug. 27 through Sunday, Sept. 6—the same timeframe that the 2020 State Fair would have happened. Fridays and Saturdays will also feature family-friendly entertainment and activities.

During business hours, restaurants, delis, and vendors will be offering fair-style treats. That includes dishes and drinks

from actual State Fair regulars, including the Produce Exchange (grilled peaches!), Manny's Tortas (a piña colada served in a real pineapple!), and Hot Indian (fried chicken! samosas!).

Other highlights: Andy's Garage will be frying up Wisconsin cheese curds, corn dogs, and mini burgers; Eastlake Craft Brewery is set to release dill pickle-infused sour beer; and there will be camel burgers, vegan tacos, and one of the most delicious and underrated fair foods, roasted corn on a stick.

The best part? You don't have to pay admission. Just slap on a mask, practice social distancing, and eat 'til you're full while reflecting on what the 2020 State Fair could have been if only it weren't for COVID-19.

Check midtownglobalmarket.org for more updates and news about the Great Global Get-Together. 📍

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James Hong (left) with Dan Fogler at a *Balls of Fury* Comic-Con panel in 2007

SPENCER HOOKS

James Hong isn't just an actor. He's basically the most epic version of the "Hey, it's that guy!" to ever exist. His career spans over 70 years, with parts in nearly 700 different productions.

That's 469 TV shows, 149 feature films, 32 short films, and 22 video games.

A few highlights: He was the eyeball maker in *Blade Runner*, Chi-Fu in *Mulan*, and Evelyn's butler Khan in *Chinatown*. He's been on *Seinfeld*, *The Big Bang Theory*, *The X-Files*, and *West Wing*.

He was on *Hawaii Five-O* in the 1970s and in 2018.

And yet, the 91-year-old actor doesn't have a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Actor Daniel Dae Kim and friends are planning to change that. Kim started a GoFundMe page to raise cash to pay for a star to honor the man who inspired generations of Asian American Hollywood hopefuls.

"This man epitomizes the term 'working actor,'" Kim writes on the GoFundMe page,

"and that's not even taking into account all he's done to help further representation for actors of color. Not only was he one of the few who worked steadily when there were even fewer roles than there are now, but he also served the Asian American community by co-creating the legendary East West Players theater company."

The page raised over \$55,000 in three days, and #StarForJamesHong has been trending on Twitter, with celebs like Harry Shum Jr., Ken Jeong, Randall Park, George Takei, John Cho, and Ming Na giving shout-outs to Hong and the fundraiser.

A NORTHERN STAR

Celebs rally to get MN actor James Hong a Walk of Fame star

BY JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

"Guys, we did it! Stage one is complete," Kim tweeted last week. "Over 1700 people came together in three days to fully fund our campaign to get a #StarForJamesHong. We've closed off further donations and now the money goes into an account until we apply for the nomination in the spring."

The next step will be submitting an application to the Walk of Fame selection committee, which accepts 30 recipients a year out of a pool of around 200. That competition is kinda stiff, but Hong seems like a shoo-in.

"It's time James Hong was honored in the way he deserves, and it's time to show him how much he—and all the actors of color of earlier generations—have done to pave the way for us today," says Kim.

As for his connection to Minnesota? Hong was born in Minneapolis in 1929 to Chinese immigrants. He grew up on Third Avenue South, where his father ran a grocery store.

"It's all gone now, of course," he explained to City Pages in 2014 when he was in town for Comic Con. "All those little stores when I was born, the department stores. [My childhood home] was on the second story of my father's Chinese grocery store on Third Avenue and Seventh. We were a big family—seven children—and I was right in the middle."

Hong grew up in the Twin Cities, graduating from Minneapolis Central High School and then heading to California for college and eventually breaking into show business. ☑

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MUSIC

LOCAL MUSIC STILL EXISTS

5 local albums that have made a
terrible year a little better

BY KEITH HARRIS

Yes, yes, yes. Pandemic. Shuttered clubs. Isolation. Despair. This is a bad time for us all, and that most definitely includes musicians and anyone who works in the music industry generally.

But. Local music is still being recorded, released, and—if you so choose—listened to. With our attention directed elsewhere, some of the year's best albums are in danger of slipping through the cracks. I've rounded up a few here to help prevent that.

BIG \$ILKY: *BIG \$ILKY Vol. 2*

The seven-track second volume from the rap duo of Psalm One and Angel Davanport demonstrates that there is no limit to how much shit can be untaken and fucks ungiven. Psalm handles the tracks, their flows complement each other, and personal and political intertwine with gale-force attitude whether they're contributing a banger to the anti-cop canon with "1-800-FVCK12" or calling out fair-weather comrades with "No you cannot sit with us while sitting on the fence."

Harper's Jar: *Thank You Ancestor Finger*

Released way back in April, a truly un-ideal moment, this trio's debut full-length just grooves in a way a lot of noisy guitar rock can't be bothered to. Whether they're streamlining old-school grunge or climaxing with the 14+ minute tantrum of "Edie Sedgewick," Devin Ware's alternately clanging or chiming rhythm guitar locks in with drummer Kyle Kennedy and bassist Alex Dunn to give the sense of a band that's consistently determined to get where it's going even if it's not always sure where that is yet.

Juice Lord: *The 6/6 EP*

On his follow-up to 5/5, the young St. Paul MC rhymes with an all-in style you might call gruff if not for a warmth and enthusiasm that makes him a little like (but hardly only like)

Dylan Hicks



WILSON WEBB

a Midwestern Meek Mill. The title doesn't refer to the release date, but to the number of new tracks across which he flexes his range, with features from Destiny Roberts, Lewiee Blaze, Knucky & Kalhoun, Pro Steve, and Why Khaliq & RZ Shahid flaunting the strength of the scene from which he's emerged and a few words dedicated to the late Lexii Alijai reminding us what that scene lost in 2020. Looking forward to 7/7.

Munson-Hicks Party Supplies: *Munson-Hicks Party Supplies*

Bittersweetly seriocomic piano man Dylan Hicks (largely) hands the mic over to John Munson of Semisonic (and then some), in whose voice Hicks's stories of wrong turns taken and second thoughts re-thunk take on a slightly different shade of wistful. With jazz guitarist Zacc Harris complementing the songwriter's keyboards, and Munson locking in with Richard Medek's drums, this is a band that can credibly summon up (pre-Aja) Steely Dan on "Pennies on My Eyes." And an album that starts with a resigned shrug over unfulfilled potential "Only Smoke" ("What I didn't know then/I still don't know") progresses to "If you get where you're going/Who cares how you went?" by the closing track. That's some kind of spiritual progress, right? 

>> By Rob Breznsky

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19): "We never know what is enough until we know what's more than enough," said Aries singer Billie Holiday. I don't think that applies to everyone, although it's more likely to be true about the Aries tribe than maybe any other sign of the zodiac. And I'm guessing that the coming weeks could be a time when you will indeed be vivid proof of its validity. That's why I'm issuing a "Too Much of a Good Thing" alert for you. I don't think it'll be harmful to go a bit too far and get a little too much of the good things; it may even be wise and healthy to do so. But please don't go waaayyyy too far and get waaayyyy too much of the good things.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Taurus author Honoré de Balzac (1799-1850) took many years to write *The Human Comedy*, an amalgam of 91 intertwined novels, stories, and essays. For this vast enterprise, he dreamed up the personalities of more than 2,000 characters, many of whom appeared in multiple volumes. I bring this to your attention, Taurus, because I believe that the next 15 months will be an excellent time for you to imagine and carry out a Balzac-like project of your own. Do you have an inkling of what that might be? Now's a good time to start ruminating.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Not until the 19th century did humans begin to take organized actions to protect animals from cruelty. Even those were sparse. The latter part of the 20th century brought more concerted efforts to promote animal welfare, but the rise of factory farms, toxic slaughterhouses, zoos, circuses, and cosmetic testing has shunted us into a Dark Age of animal abuse. I suspect our descendants will look back with horror at our barbarism. This problem incurs psychological wounds in us all in ways that aren't totally conscious. And I think this is an especially key issue for you right now. I beg you, for your own sake as well as for the animals', to upgrade your practical love and compassion for animals. I bet you'll find it inspires you to treat your own body with more reverence.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22): Cancerian literary critic Harold Bloom bragged to *The New York Times* that his speed-reading skills were so advanced that he could finish a 500-page book in an hour. While I believe he has indeed devoured thousand of books, I also wonder if he lied about his quickness. Nonetheless, I'll offer him up as an inspirational role model for you in the coming weeks. Why? Because you're likely to be able to absorb and integrate far more new information and fresh experiences than usual—and at a rapid pace.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): "Magic lies in challenging what seems impossible," says Leo politician Carol Moseley Braun. I agree with her, but will also suggest there's an even higher magic: when you devise a detailed plan for achieving success by challenging the impossible, and then actually carry out that plan. Judging from the current astrological omens, I suspect you're in an unusually favorable position to do just that in the coming weeks. Be bold in rising to the challenge: be practical and strategic in winning the challenge.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): "Joy is a mystery because it can happen anywhere, anytime, even under the most unpromising circumstances," writes author Frederick Buechner. What he doesn't say is that you must be receptive and open to the possibility of joy arriving anywhere and anytime. If you're shut down to its surprising influx, if you're convinced that joy is out of reach, it won't break through the barriers you've put up; it won't be able to land in your midst. I think this is especially important counsel for you in the coming weeks. Virgo, PLEASE make yourself available for joy. P.S. Here's another clue from Buechner: "Joy is where the whole being is pointed in one direction."

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): "I transformed stillnesses and darknesses into words," wrote Libran poet Arthur Rimbaud. "What was unspeakable, I named. I made the whirling world pause." In accordance with current astrological potentials, I have turned his thoughts into a message for you. In the coming weeks, I hope you will translate silences and mysteries into clear language. What is unfathomable and inaccessible, you will convert into understandings and revelations. Gently, without force or violence, you will help heal the inarticulate agitation around you with the power of your smooth, resonant tenderness.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): "Your desires, whether or not you achieve them, will determine who you become," wrote author Octavia E. Butler. Now is a fertile time for you to meditate on that truth. So I dare you to take an inventory of all your major desires, from the noblest to the most trivial. Be honest. If one of your burning yearnings is to have 100,000 followers on Instagram or to eat chocolate-covered bacon that is served to you in bed, admit it. After you're through tallying up the wonders you want most, the next step is to decide if they are essential to you becoming the person you truly want to be. If some aren't, consider replacing them with desires that will be a better influence on you as you evolve.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): If you can manage it, I recommend taking a break from business-as-usual. I'd love to see you give yourself the gift of amusement and play—a luxurious sabbatical that will help you feel free of every burden, excused from every duty, and exempt from every fixation. The spirit I hope you will embody is captured well in this passage from author Okakura Kakuzo: "Let us have a sip of tea. The afternoon glow is brightening the bamboos, the fountains are bubbling with delight, the sighing of the pines is heard in our kettle. Let us dream of evanescence, and linger in the beautiful foolishness of things."

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Rapper Eminem advises us, "Never take ecstasy, beer, Bacardi, weed, Pepto-Bismol, Vivarin, Tums, Tagamet HB, Xanax, and Valium in the same day." What's his rationale? That quaffing this toxic mix might kill us or make us psychotic? No. He says you shouldn't do that because "It makes it difficult to sleep at night." I'm going to suggest that you abide by his counsel for yet another reason: According to my analysis, you have the potential to experience some wondrous and abundant natural highs in the coming weeks. Your capacity for beautiful perceptions, exhilarating thoughts, and breakthrough epiphanies will be at a peak. But none of that is likely to happen if you're loaded up with inebriants.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): "Everyone who has ever built a new heaven first found the power to do so in his own hell," declared philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche. That's a rather histrionic statement! But then Nietzsche was a Maestro of Melodrama. He was inclined to portray human life as a heroic struggle for boldness and liberation. He imagined us as being engaged in an epic quest to express our highest nature. In accordance with your astrological potentials, I propose that you regard Nietzsche as your power creature during the coming weeks. You have a mandate to adopt his lion-hearted perspective. And yes, you also have a poetic license to build a new heaven based on the lessons you learned and the power you gained in your own hell.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Here's some knowledge from author John le Carré: "In every operation there is an above the line and a below the line. Above the line is what you do by the book. Below the line is how you do the job." According to my analysis, you have, at least for now, done all you can in your work above the line. That's great! It was crucial for you to follow the rules and honor tradition. But now it's time for a shift in emphasis. In the coming weeks, I hope you will specialize in finessing the details and massaging the nuances below the line.

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TWO BY FOURS

BY BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY

Across

- 1 Funky fresh
- 5 "Breaking Bad" cook
- 9 Sensei's room
- 13 Cross-dresser in a Kinks song
- 14 Old Testament prophet
- 15 "Victory is mine!"
- 16 Top of the heap
- 17 Loosen, as sneaks
- 18 Femoral groove spot
- 19 Spanish conquistador Hernan's posse?

- 27 "Think outside the box!"
- 28 Roughly
- 29 Nerve appendage
- 30 "Let go of me"
- 31 Musical break
- 32 Seats for some weddings
- 33 Chuck
- 34 Sedgwick who was part of Andy Warhol's "superstars"

- 27 ___ Island
- 28 Like cleared cookies
- 29 It might be in a laundry pile
- 30 Breadmaking stage
- 31 Spa treatment
- 32 Spots for fountains, maybe
- 33 Those in charge
- 37 "Player Piano" author
- 38 Paint seller
- 40 "Darn tooting"
- 41 "The fat ___ the fire"

Down

- 22 Lure
- 23 Sunday meal
- 26 "That's stand-up comic Povitsky!"?
- 31 Singer/songwriter Alborán
- 34 Pulled leg muscle, colloquially
- 35 Singular prefix
- 36 French 101 word
- 37 They're counted in November
- 38 Bock alternatives
- 39 President's term, historically
- 40 Sing on a mountaintop
- 41 Livid
- 42 "Here's a tip: sign up for the army"?
- 45 Like Indians
- 46 Question from someone you haven't seen in a while
- 50 Song praising an authoritarian figure?
- 54 Funk guitarist's pedal

- 1 Where it's at
- 2 Biker's invitation
- 3 Time to use the siren emoji
- 4 Deed purchased at a government auction
- 5 Grapes in a glass
- 6 Festival lineup
- 7 For the flock
- 8 Truths in math
- 9 Harsh punishment handed down by the victor
- 10 Have a hold on
- 11 Kamala's running mate
- 12 It's better than nothing
- 14 Le Louvre, e.g.
- 20 Talk back?
- 21 Like optimistic outlooks
- 24 NFL coach with the most regular season wins
- 25 2020 Christopher Nolan movie

- 43 Jaguars' rivals
- 44 What do you see?
- 47 Unit of dignity
- 48 FC Barcelona's all-time leading scorer
- 49 Ham things up
- 51 You might get it from kissing someone
- 52 The basics
- 53 Guitarist Lofgren
- 54 2020 Cardi B single
- 55 Cutting feller
- 56 Dumbstruck response

Last Week's Answer

L	E	T	H	E	M	O	D	E	D	A	Y			
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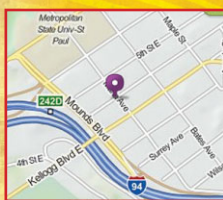


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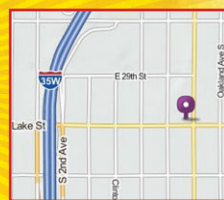
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SAVAGE LOVE

Quickies

Is it cool to fuck cucumbers?



Dan Savage

I'm a 35-year-old woman. I recently discovered I'm a size queen. (Is it OK for me to use this term?) It's been brewing for a while as I've dabbled with purchasing larger and larger cucumbers and fucking myself with them after a good wash. I use a condom and tons of lube and it's been amazing. Are there any safety or health concerns I should be aware of? I'm moving away from fucking produce and purchased my first sizable toy. I see safety tips online for men who like large toys in their butts but I wanted to know if there's anything I should be aware of as a vagina-haver.

FINDING | LATELY LOVE ENORMOUS DILDOS

So long as you're taking it slow, so long as you're using lots of lube, so long as you're playing with toys that have flared bases and were designed for insertion play, and so long as those toys are made of body-safe materials like silicone, then you're doing everything right. And yes, FILLED, you may use the term "size queen" to describe yourself!

Recently a discussion came up on Facebook about diaper play: A group of people seem to think that enjoying this kink is the same thing as being a pedophile or engaging in "pedo-lite" behavior. Another group—myself included—believes it's simply an expression of a kink between two consenting adults and isn't the same as pedophilia at all. I was curious as to your take on the situation, or if you had any suggestions on how to approach this topic with the first group?

WANDERING ETHICAL TERRAIN
OF NAPPIES EMPLOYED SEXUALLY

Does fucking someone who's wearing a dog collar count as bestiality? Of course not, WETONES, because dog collars no more turn consenting adults into dogs than diapers turn consenting adults into infants. And the disapproval of strangers on the internet not only won't stop an adult who wants to wear diapers from wearing diapers, WETONES, that disapproval makes wearing diapers all the more arousing because the transgression and "wrongness" of wearing diapers makes wearing diapers arousing for them. Which means your disapproving friends are playing right into the pervy hands/crinkly rubber shorts of all the diaper lovers out there. For most people who get off on diapers, it's the humiliation of being a diapered adult that turns them on, not the fantasy of being a child.

My husband and I recently watched the fantastic '70s porn *Alice in Wonderland: An X-rated Musical Fantasy* (we got to it by watching *Meatballs*). It was everything I've ever wanted in a porn. Perhaps you or your readers could recommend something similar to put in our rotation?

LIKES TO WATCH

Check out *Caligula*. This intermittently pornographic 1979 film probably isn't as lighthearted as the version of *Alice in Wonderland* you stumbled over, LTW, but it doubtless has a much more interesting backstory and far bigger stars. A young and sexy Malcolm McDowell as the mad Roman emperor with Peter O'Toole (!), John Gielgud (!!), and Helen Mirren (!!!) in supporting roles. Even better, this amazing train wreck of a movie is based on a screenplay by Gore Vidal.

If a woman is attracted to cis men and non-binary humans (who can have a penis or vagina) but is not attracted to cis women... would that woman be bi or pan?

LOVES ALL BODIES EXCEPT LADIES

While bisexual was once commonly understood to mean "attracted to both sexes," the Human Rights Campaign's online glossary now defines bisexual as "emotionally, romantically or sexually attracted to more than one sex, gender or gender identity." That same glossary defines pansexual as "the potential for emotional, romantic or sexual attraction to people of any gender." While on first read there doesn't seem to be much daylight between those two definitions, LABEL, there actually is some difference between being attracted to "more than one [gender]" and being attracted to "people of any gender." And while a lot of people use bi and pan pretty much interchangeably these days, the bi label is probably a slightly better fit for you, seeing as your libido disqualifies all members of one gender—your own—from emotional, romantic, or sexual consideration.

mail@savagelove.net

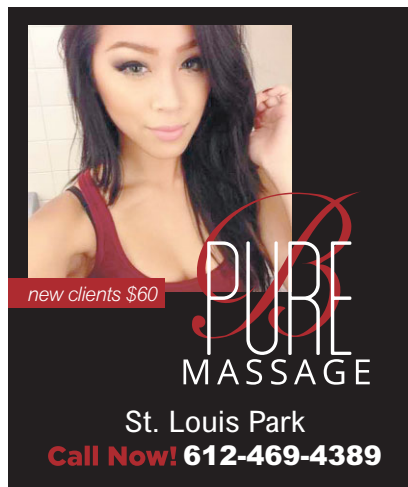
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